

## "LENA RIVERS" APPEALS TO ALL CLASSES

Company Is Exceptionally Strong One and None Should Miss the Play—Other Dramatic Notes.

An attraction that has had a tremendous amount of success throughout the country is the dramatization of Mrs. Mary J. Holmes' widely read novel, "Lena Rivers." The drawing powers of this play are said to be extraordinary, and it is neither hard nor difficult to understand why Mrs. Holmes' books have appealed to all classes of people for over fifty years

over ten millions. It stands to reason that a good play made out of this book would enjoy success commensurate with the success of the story. From reports a more than good play was made out of the book, and hence it is being heralded as the greatest comedy success of modern times. It will please any number of people to



Scene in Play of "Lena Rivers."

know that "Lena Rivers" will be presented at the Grand opera house tonight.

The company is said to be an exceptionally strong one and is under the direction of Barton & Wierwille. Miss Emma Bunting, an exceedingly pretty and clever little leading woman, will be seen as "Lena." The play contains all of the good things which made the book so interesting.

Fannie Ward has scored heavily in the emotional role of Muriel Van Allen in the new play, "Van Allen's Wife," by Forest Halsey and Lee Arthur, the first performance of which was given in Rochester last week. Heretofore Miss Ward has played only the lighter dramatic roles before American audiences, but in London, where she has appeared in heavier roles, a brilliant future was predicted for her by the critics. In "Van Allen's Wife" she fulfills every promise, meeting every demand made upon her for the strong, virile acting that the part requires. Her achievement means the rise of a young and beautiful emotional actress, a dearth of whom is so noticeable today on the native stage. The play itself is gripping, and Miss Ward holds the attention of the audience until the fall of the curtain. "Van Allen's Wife" is well staged. In the effective cast are H. Reeves-Smith, John Dean, Romayne Callender, Errol Dunbar, Henry Duggan, Margaret Fuller and Janet Slater.

Klaw & Erlanger's latest production, "The Silver Star," with Adeline Genee, the dancer, in the leading role, has scored an emphatic success at the New Amsterdam Theatre, New York City. The new York Herald's notice is a good average of what the critics thought of the performance. Its critics wrote:

"Before the curtain was up on the second act it was rated a 'winner' by the large audience and when the final curtain fell this same audience left in high feather pleased that they had seen the premiere."

"Miss Genee introduced five new dances. The star had lines to speak for the first time here and spoke them very well. But her nimble feet carried the night for her. And it was a triumph for her in every particular. Talk about playing notes—Miss Genee can dance them."

"Messrs. Klaw & Erlanger never made a more beautiful production. 'The Silver Star' will likely be twinkling at the New Amsterdam theatre when the roses bloom in the spring, tra la."

"The Ham Tree," that fleeting vision long sought by McIntyre & Heath, who are now appearing under the management of Klaw & Erlanger in "In Hat," in their black-face rambles through the theatre world, has been found at last, only to be lost in the onward march of Pittsburgh's steel industry. Sadly shattered and unavailable as a source of nutriment for the black-face comedians, the Ham Tree fell with a mighty crash, blocking street car progress for an hour and carrying with it telephone, telegraph, electric light and fire alarm wires. When the big sycamore tree, popularly reputed to be 150 years old, fell at Bridge and Butler streets in that city, oldtime residents recalled that it had been known in the time of their youth as "The Ham Tree." Farmers failing to find pork purchasers for their pork products at hog killing time, would gather at the old sycamore tree and peddle hams to all comers.

After an absence from the stage returns in the cast of "The Air King," the Klaw & Erlanger production in which John Slavin will appear. The arrangement for Miss of six years, Miss Josephine Hall Hall's return to the stage was made with Klaw & Erlanger by Alfred E. Aarons, the comedienne's husband. Mr. Aarons at first intended to present Miss Hall in a new musical play he has in preparation, but yielded up her services after learning of the advantages of the preferred role. She is best remembered in the title role of "The Girl From Maxim's." She is a finished artiste and character actress.

Klaw & Erlanger's latest musical production, "The Young Turk," with Max Rogers and Maude Raymond in the principal roles, which was first produced in Atlantic City last week, seems to be another big success. The book is by Aaron Hoffman, the music by Max Hoffman and the lyrics by Harry Williams. The scenes are laid in New York City, Constantinople and Monte Carlo. The story tells the adventures of a young American who gets mixed up with a Turkish revolution. The songs in the show are "A Boy Out West," "Oriental Moon" and a quartette entitled "Wedding Bells." Miss Raymond made a hit in a song entitled "I Thought I Wanted Opera," which ends the second act. A feature of the show which is bound to attract attention is the Turkish trousered chorus girls. "The Young Turk" will play a Boston engagement before it comes into New York for a run. Another feature of the performance that was commented on was Max Rogers' getting away from the German dialect roles, with which he has been associated so long.

When "Ben Hur," Klaw & Erlanger's great play, is presented at the National theatre, Washington, in the week of Jan. 10, 1910, the statue of Gen. Lew Wallace in statutory hall, will be unveiled with appropriate ceremonies. The unveiling will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 11. William Allen Wood, one of the three commissioners, will deliver the address for the commission presenting the statue to the National government. Senator Beveridge and Governor Marshall will be especially for the occasion. Lew Wallace addresses, and James Whitcomb Riley will read a poem writ-

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Wallace, Jr., of Indianapolis, will pull the cord that will unveil the statue. Members of the firm of Klaw & Erlanger will also take part in the exercises.

In due time a resolution will be introduced in both senate and house recognizing the unveiling of the monument as an official event and providing that the two houses of congress shall be represented.

On the night of the 11th the Indiana Society of Washington will hold what it will call a Wallace meeting, and men of prominence have been asked to deliver short addresses. The Indiana congressional delegation will be invited to attend this function. An effort is to be made to have most of the survivors of the Eleventh Indiana regiment, which General Wallace commanded during the early part of the war, attend the unveiling.

Indians also held services in its shade, whispered the farmers' wives to their wide-eyed offspring. But historic association and heartfelt longing of a blackface comedian for "that there Ham Tree" could not save the sycamore when the Spang-Chalfant company cleared the ground for its new steel works.

"The Air King," a Klaw & Erlanger musical comedy, in which John Slavin is to appear, will receive its first production in Buffalo next week. The music of the play is by Raymond Hubbell and the book by Harry B. Smith.

"Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," a new production by Klaw & Erlanger and Joseph Brooks, will be presented for the first time this week in Springfield, Mass., with Violet Heming in the role of Rebecca.

Klaw & Erlanger will send McIntyre and Heath in their new show, "In Hat," to the Pacific Coast this season. They will go West over the Northern route, returning by way of Los Angeles and Salt Lake City. The comedians have not been in the Far West with a company in three years.

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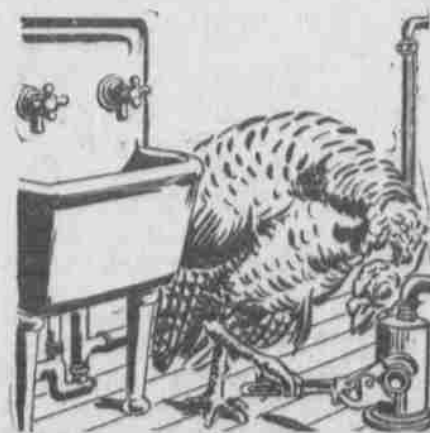
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